To the Hon. Minister of General Affairs
Mr. W.S. Smith
Administration Building
Clem Labega Square
Philipsburg

UV/085/2019-2020

Philipsburg, November 5, 2019

Re: Questions from MP S.A. Wescot-Williams regarding Committee Electoral Reform

Hon. Minister Smith,

Herewith I submit to you questions posed by Member of Parliament, Mrs. S.A. Wescot-Williams pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

W.V. Marlin
Chairman of Parliament
To:
Parliament of Sint Maarten
Attention: President of Parliament
Wilhelminastraat #1
Philipsburg, St. Maarten

Philipsburg, October 30th, 2019

Ref: Committee Electoral Reform

Dear Honorable President of Parliament,

I hereby submit to you questions directed to Prime Minister, Honorable Wycliffe S. Smith, regarding the Committee Electoral Reform.

I kindly request that these be forwarded.

Respectfully,

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament (MP)

Wilhelminastraat # 1, Philipsburg, Sint Maarten
T: + (1-721) 542-2929 / 542-0812 / 542-0635 / 542-2557
E: sarah.wescot-williams@sxmparliament.org, W:www.sxmparliament.org
Prime Minister of Sint Maarten
Honorable Wycliffe S. Smith
Government Administration Building
Philipsburg, Sint Maarten

Philipsburg, October 30, 2019

Ref: Committee Electoral Reform

Honorable Prime Minister Smith,

Kindly see attached letter from Prime Minister Leona Marlin-Romeo dated April 29th, 2019, which is self-explanatory.

1. Who are the members of the Workgroup, referred to in paragraph three of the aforementioned letter?
2. Has the workgroup advised regarding the Committee “to research/investigate all laws etc.?”
3. If so, has the committee Electoral Reform been established?
4. If not, is this approach still being pursued?

Respectfully,

Sarah A. Wescot-Williams
Member of Parliament
Your letter dated April 23, 2019, concerning the establishment of a Committee to advise Government on Electoral Reform, was received in good order.

In mentioned letter, you stated that in the media you were made aware of the fact that Government established a Committee Electoral Reform. The information in the media is not completely correct. As you know this topic was discussed in a coalition meeting, at least twice before and electoral reform is part of the Governing Program.

Based on these discussions I installed a workgroup to advice and prepare the necessary documents to install a Committee which will have the tasks to research/investigate all laws and regulations concerning elections and to advise/proposal to Government changes or new policies/laws to better regulate the process for an election and the voting system. For this reason there is no National Decree installing a Committee Electoral Reform. As soon as the committee is installed by National Degree I will send a copy to Parliament.

Furthermore, I can inform you that the workgroup was instructed to first meet with the Ad Hoc Committee Electoral Reform of Parliament. The Committee once installed will have the task to also exchange ideas and to make arrangements to work together with the mentioned Ad Hoc committee of parliament.

Sincerely,

Prime Minister's Office